



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - December 11, 2002

- ***In the West***, mountain snows and valley rain showers are diminishing across ***northern California***, but continue in parts of ***Oregon and Washington***. Soil moisture improvements are aiding pastures and winter grains, but much more precipitation is needed to ease the effects of ***Western*** drought on rangelands and reservoirs.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather favors some additional winter wheat development across ***southern portions of the region***. Meanwhile, mild, breezy weather is melting a patchy snow cover and depleting topsoil moisture on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where much of the winter wheat crop remains exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, some rain and freezing rain is falling across the ***Ohio Valley***, but mild, dry weather is easing stress on livestock elsewhere in the region.
- ***In the South***, dry weather is returning, following Tuesday's widespread rainfall. In many areas, soggy fields continue to hamper autumn fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and final summer crop harvesting.

Outlook: Freezing rain will result in a damaging ice storm over interior portions of the ***Mid-Atlantic and Northeast*** before precipitation tapers off during Wednesday evening. Meanwhile across the ***West***, periods of rain and snow are likely from the ***Pacific Northwest*** southward into ***northern California***. On Friday, a developing storm will spread a mixture of rain and snow from the ***Ohio and Tennessee Valley*** into the ***Mid-Atlantic***, while more locally heavy rainfall is possible across the ***eastern Gulf Coast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 16-20 features below-normal precipitation ***across the Plain States and upper Midwest***, while above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***West, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic***. Above-normal temperatures are expected ***across most of the U.S.*** excluding the ***Pacific Northwest and Gulf Coast***.

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